

## Message Text

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ACTION ACDA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 ERDA-05 CIAE-00 H-01 INR-07  
IO-13 L-03 NSAE-00 OIC-02 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-04 PRS-01  
SAJ-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 TRSE-00 NSC-05 /090 W  
-----091850Z 113245 /42

R 091818Z FEB 77  
FM AMEMBASSY BONN  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5485  
INFO SECDEF WASHDC  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMEMBASSY PARIS  
USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS  
USDEL MBFR VIENNA  
USNMR SHAPE  
CINC EUR VAIHINGEN

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 BONN 02483

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PARM, NATO, MBFR, GW  
SUBJECT: MBFR: FDP REVIEWING ITS POSITION?

1. A FEB. 3 FDP PRESS STATEMENT IMPLIES THAT THE  
LIBERALS TOO MAY BE REVIEWING THE BIDDING ON THE  
ALLIANCE'S MBFR POSITION. THE STATEMENT READS AS  
FOLLOWS:

"MBFR NEGOTIATIONS IN VIENNA SHOULD SET POSITIVE  
SIGNALS

TODAY IN VIENNA A NEW ROUND OF THE NEGOTIATIONS ON  
MUTUAL AND BALANCED FORCE REDUCTIONS IN CENTRAL EUROPE  
HAS BEGUN. THE FDP WOULD LIKE TO USE THIS OCCASION  
EMPHATICALLY TO POINT TOWARDS DISARMAMENT AND ARMS  
CONTROL AS THE GREAT TASK OF THE COMING YEARS. ALL  
PARTICIPANTS SHOULD DEMONSTRATE A SERIOUS WILL FOR  
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ACHIEVING PROGRESS IN VIENNA. IT WOULD BE DESIRABLE IF  
THE CONSTRUCTIVE WESTERN PROPOSALS ALREADY INTRODUCED  
INTO THE NEGOTIATIONS WERE TO FIND A SIMILARLY CON-  
STRUCTIVE ANSWER.

THE FDP HOPES THAT POSITIVE SIGNALS ARE BEING SET  
IN VIENNA. THE GOAL OF THE NEGOTIATIONS MUST BE,

THROUGH MUTUAL REDUCTIONS, TO REACH AN AGREED COMMON COLLECTIVE CEILING IN THE PERSONNEL STRENGTH OF BOTH SIDES. THERE MAY NOT AND WILL NOT BE A SPECIAL STATUS FOR THE BUNDESWEHR. PROGRESS IN THE TROOP REDUCTION NEGOTIATIONS WOULD BE FACILITATED IF THERE WERE ALSO SUCCESS IN THE DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND THE SOVIET UNION ON A LIMITATION OF STRATEGIC WEAPONS.

THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY IS PREPARED TO WORK TOGETHER CONSTRUCTIVELY ON ALL DISARMAMENT EFFORTS AND THEREBY CONTRIBUTE TO THE SECURING OF PEACE IN THE WORLD."

2. COMMENT: THIS FDP STATEMENT, THE FIRST OF ITS KIND AT THE START OF A NEW MBFR ROUND, MAY BE INTENDED TO SIGNAL THAT FOREIGN MINISTER GENSCHER IS MORE READY THAN BEFORE TO CONTEMPLATE CHANGES IN THE ALLIANCE POSITION IN ORDER TO HAVE PROGRESS IN MBFR. GENSCHER AND HIS FONOFF STAFFERS HAVE THUS FAR ADVOCATED THE MAINTENANCE OF PRESENT ALLIANCE POSITIONS, PARTLY TO SAFEGUARD GERMAN INTERESTS.

ALTHOUGH THE STATEMENT FIRMLY REITERATES GENSCHER'S OFT-REPEATED THEMES OF PARITY, COLLECTIVITY, AND NO SPECIAL REGIME FOR THE BUNDESWEHR, ITS OVERALL TONE IS ONE OF ACCOMMODATION AND WILLINGNESS TO TAKE ANOTHER LOOK AT THE NEGOTIATING SITUATION. THE STATEMENT ALSO MOVES THE FDP CLOSER TO ITS SPD COALITION PARTNER'S

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 BONN 02483

DECLARATORY POSITION ON THE GENERAL NEED FOR  
PROGRESS ON DISARMAMENT ISSUES. GENSCHER MAY NOT WISH  
TO BE LEFT TOO FAR BEHIND THE SPD ON THIS TOPIC.

THE STATEMENT MAY ALSO REFLECT GENSCHER'S EXPEC-  
TATIONS OF POSSIBLE NEW MBFR INITIATIVES FROM THE CARTER  
ADMINISTRATION, AND HIS SENSE THAT IT WOULD NOT BE TO  
THE FRG'S ADVANTAGE TO APPEAR TO BE BLOCKING U.S.  
INITIATIVES. FURTHER, GENSCHER MAY ALSO BE INDICATING  
THAT THE FDP-LED FONOFF -- RATHER THAN THE BRANDT-BAHR  
SPD CHANNEL -- IS THE APPROPRIATE MEANS FOR CONDUCTING  
A DIALOGUE ON THE SUBJECT OF MBFR.

A CONFIDANT OF GENSCHER'S, WHO IS ACTIVE IN FDP  
PARTY AFFAIRS, TOLD US RECENTLY THAT GENSCHER WAS NO  
LONGER SO OPPOSED TO SOME OF THE PROPOSALS PUT FORTH BY  
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BRANDT AND OTHERS. IT WAS MORE A QUESTION OF TACTICS  
RATHER THAN SUBSTANCE, OUR CONTACT SAID. FOR EXAMPLE,  
SYMBOLIC REDUCTIONS WERE NO LONGER QUITE SO REPUGNANT  
TO GENSCHER AND THE FDP AS THEY ONCE WERE. THE QUESTION  
OF HOW TO WORK OUT SOME SORT OF INFORMAL ASSURANCE TO THE  
SOVIETS THAT THE BUNDESWEHR WOULD ALSO BE INCLUDED IN  
WESTERN REDUCTIONS TO REACH THE COMMON CEILING WAS NOW  
BEING DISCUSSED. ASSUMING THIS REPORT ACCURATELY  
REFLECTS GENSCHER'S POSITION, IT WOULD SEEM TO INDICATE  
THAT THE FOREIGN MINISTER IS PREPARED TO TAKE A  
SYMPATHETIC LOOK AT NEW PROPOSALS TO ADVANCE THE  
NEGOTIATIONS, PROVIDED TRADITIONAL GERMAN SECURITY  
CONCERNS ARE SAFEGUARDED.  
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## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
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**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
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**TAGS:** PARM, GE, NATO, MBFR  
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